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LAKELAND ELEMENTARY NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

LES Receives Prestigious Award for Exemplary High Performance

Lakeland, TN, October 1, 2018 – The U.S. Department of Education has named Lakeland Elementary School a National Blue Ribbon School—the highest honor the department conveys on public and private schools in the United States. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced the honor today and shared her congratulations with the recognized schools. Nominations for the coveted awards are made annually by the top education officials in each state based on criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education. Schools then go through a comprehensive evaluation process to establish their qualifications for the award. Principal Joretha Lockhart, Lakeland School System superintendent Dr. Ted Horrell, and a teacher representative from Lakeland Elementary will attend the awards presentation in Washington D.C. on November 7th and 8th. The National Blue Ribbon School program is in its 35th year. Additional information about the National Blue Ribbon School program is available at <https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov>

Lakeland Elementary was nominated as an Exemplary High Performing School. That means the school's scores were in at least the top 15% in the state, and that disaggregated results for all students, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds, were similar to the results for all students tested. In 2017 TN Ready testing, Lakeland Elementary student scores were in the top 1% of elementary schools in Math, Reading, and Science.

LES principal Joretha Lockhart said, "These teachers and staff work so hard, and no one sees the extra work they do to make sure all students succeed. We're so grateful for the support of our Board of Education and district office as well as our parents and community members."

Lakeland School System superintendent Dr. Ted Horrell said, "Lakeland Elementary is an extraordinary school with an extraordinary leader in Joretha Lockhart. She continues to push her teachers and students to achieve more and more each year while, incredibly, also cultivating a loving and nurturing school climate. We could not be more proud of this accomplishment."

Dr. Horrell also noted the esteem in which the Blue Ribbon Program is held. "This award is essentially the highest honor a school can receive in the United States and places Lakeland Elementary in great company with the other schools that have received this distinction."

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